

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 EPA-01

CEQ-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /106 W

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R 261415Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2641

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0264

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, EINV, BDIS, GR

SUBJECT: ETHYL HELLAS: MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS REACT
STRONGLY AGAINST GOG DECISION

REF: ATHENS 8028

1. THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS OF THESSALONIKI AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES HAVE REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST GOG DECISION TO PERMIT ETHYL HELLAS TO MOVE ITS LEAD ANTI-KNOCK COMPOUND STORAGE FACILITIES FROM PORT OF THESSALONIKI TO PLANT SITE. IN COMBINED MEETING OF THE ELECTED COMMUNITY OFFICIALS CALLED BY THESSALONIKI PASOK MAYOR PAPADOPOULOS AUGUST 25 RESOLUTION WAS DRAFTED DEMANDING THAT GOG APPROVAL BE RESCINDED AND THREATENING DEMONSTRATIONS IF IT IS NOT.

2. LEADER OF MOVEMENT IS PAPADOPOULOS WITH SUPPORT OF LEFTIST MEMBERS OF THESSALONIKI CITY COUNCIL. THIS IS SAME GROUP WHICH LED FIGHT AGAINST ETHYL PORT INSTALLATIONS LAST YEAR. IN IMPASSIONED SPEECH TO MEETING PAPADOPOULOS
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OUTLINED HIS VERSION OF DIRE DANGERS OF ETHYL INSTALLATION

AND CITED LEAKAGE FROM A "SIMILAR" INSTALLATION IN
NORTHERN ITALY TO SUPPORT HIS CASE. LOCALLY, HE ALLEGED,
DISCHARGES FROM ETHYL FACILITIES EXPLAIN THE DESTRUCTION
OF MARINE LIFE IN THE GULF OF THESSALONIKI AND ITS
TRANSFORMATION INTO A "DEAD SEA".

3. PAPADOPOULOS' CONTENTIONS WERE SUPPORTED BY THE
CENTRAL MAKEDONIA SECTION OF THE TECHNICAL CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE OF GREECE WHICH CALLED GOG DECISION UNACCEPTABLE
AND OFFERED ITS SERVICES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR
PREPARING AN "APPROPRIATE" RESPONSE.

4. MEANWHILE, ETHYL OFFICIALS HERE TELL US PLANT IS BACK
IN OPERATION AT 50 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. THE REDUCED
CAPACITY WILL REQUIRE THE LAYOFF OF 70 - 100 WORKERS.
NEGROPONTE

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